



PATENT
Atty. Dkt. No. MRKS/A0029

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:
Bernd-Georg Pietras

Serial No.: 09/762,699

Confirmation No.: 8491

Filed: May 10, 2001

For: Methods And Apparatus For
Connecting Tubulars Using A
Top Drive

MAIL STOP AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

OK to enter
ED 2/3/04

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 8, 2003

In response to the Final Office Action dated October 8, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on January 8, 2004, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Although Applicant believes that no additional fees are due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/A0029/WBP, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. **Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 4 of this paper.

§§§§§ Group Art Unit: 3762

§§§§§ Examiner: Essama Omgba

§§§§§ Customer No.: 36,735

RECEIVED

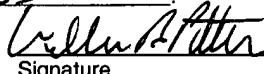
JAN 14 2004

GROUP 3600

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
37 CFR 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

William B. Patterson
Typed Name


Signature

RECEIVED

JAN 20 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700